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Imagery analysis report

The Wartime Role of the Polish ZPO River Ponton (S)

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THE WARTIME ROLE OF THE POLISH ZPO RIVER PONTON (S)

1. (S/D) Based on information contained in a recent Polish emigre report,¹ nine Polish ZPO river pontons were identified on imagery of  (Figures 1 and 2). During wartime, the ZPO will be used to build vehicular bridges (end-to-end connection) or a railroad bridge (side-to-side connection) capable of spanning most points on the Oder River.¹ The mobility and spanning ability of the ZPO ponton bridge make it an important addition to Poland's river crossing capability. A review of previous imagery revealed the presence of the ZPO as early as 1975.

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2. (S/D) The ZPO, which has been seen only in Poland, is approximately  and is propelled by a powerboat (Figure 3). It is presently used to transport Polish-produced Fiat cars on a daily basis from the Oder River port of Kozle (50-21N 018-09E) to Nowa Sol (51-48N 015-43E). The daily shipment consists of two connected ZPO pontons carrying a maximum of 100 cars (Figure 4). The home port of the ZPO pontons is Wroclaw (51-07N 017-05E).¹

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All relevant imagery acquired from  was used in the preparation of this report.

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DOCUMENT

1. DOD. Intelligence Information Report, 2 219 0145 80, *Newly Produced Polish Ponton for Commercial Use on the Oder River (U)*, 17 Mar 80 (CONFIDENTIAL)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to 
Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, 

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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF ZPO PONTONS ALONG THE ODER RIVER, POLAND

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